

Imperial Valley Weekly

Imperial Hometown Review

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Letter To The Editor

Filner Makes Case For Regional Airport In Valley

Dear Editor:

As your readers know, a San Diego working group assigned to cut down a list of sites for a new regional airport identified "fatal flaws" that seemed to eliminate every current San Diego County proposal!

I believe San Diego's answer lies in looking to the east and focusing on a site right here in Imperial Valley -- a site that could be serviced by a high speed rail line. I believe that the people of the Valley would welcome the airport and the incredible economic boom it would bring. And with a high-speed rail link, the airport would be accessible from San Diego in less than 30 minutes!

Most people in both San Diego and the Valley are skeptical of this vision. They acknowledge that building an airport in Imperial Valley is a viable option. But they think that the high-speed rail line is a pie-in-the-sky dream. But wait! Let's get the facts first! A high-speed rail station could be built in San Diego close to major highways and existing mass transit links.

A high speed train could whisk travelers to the Valley at speeds reaching 300 miles-per-hour! This vision is feasible - and we should do all the necessary studies to prove it.

The pending water transfer is just the most recent proof that San Diego

and the Valley constitute one region. And our region needs a world-class airport to guarantee our future prosperity. We must not shy away from proposals that seem visionary. I hope the San Diego Airport working group will have the courage to do what previous airport site selection groups have failed to do: think in terms of solutions for the next fifty years and forget the failed proposals of yesterday.

Bob Filner
Congressman, 51st District